



SOTC Worship  
May 7 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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## GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

HALLELUJAH! JESUS LIVES

ELW 380  
(vs. 1, 3, 5)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Gathered in the presence of God and each other, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious Father,

**you sent your Son to die and rise again so that death might be conquered, and so that we might live a new life in Christ. Yet, too often we have chosen to remain captive to sin, to doubt, to fear, and to brokenness, leading us to death. By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and marred your image within us. Father, we need a resurrection. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may rise up to live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News! Christ is risen and the stone has been rolled away. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is your new beginning as the old things die and you are made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, + your sin is forgiven, and death no longer holds power over you. You are free to live as a resurrected child of God.

**Amen! Alleluia!**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pg. 149

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.*

## READING: ACTS 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

## PSALM: PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

**<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.**

<sup>3</sup>You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,  
<sup>4</sup>take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

**<sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

BUILD US UP, LORD

ELW 670

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

**And also with you!**

*Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!*

————— MEAL —————

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PREFACE

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 153

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*In the midst of the prayer, the response to “as we proclaim the mystery of faith” is*  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Together we receive God’s gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.*

*Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.*

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg. 154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— **SENDING** —————

BLESSING



You are the Way, You are the Truth, You are the Life, my sal - va -  
 - tion. You are the Way, You are the Truth, You are the Life, the gat -  
 - way to my soul.

1. We come to - geth - er now, we cel - e - brate and shout,  
 2. In a world that's mov - ing fast, we seek what will not last.

for You have shown the way. We miss the nar - row road. But We lift our voic - es high,  
 when we look in - side our - selves,

we sing, we dance, we cry: we find that no one else "You are the on - ly way!"  
 but You can make us whole.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

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